



**CONTRA COSTA
WATER DISTRICT**

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August 10, 2010

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*Interim General
Manager*

Terry Macaulay
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments for Risk Reduction Workgroup August 3, 2010

Terry
Dear Ms. Macaulay:

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the implementation workshop held August 3, 2010.

CCWD believes that the Council should take an active role in recommending early action projects to further the co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability. Section 85084 of SBX 7-1 indicates that "the Council shall develop an interim plan that includes recommendations for early actions, projects, and programs." The last draft of the interim plan did not include a list of recommended early actions; we were pleased to hear at the workshop that the list will be reinstated. CCWD recommends that a list of high priority early action projects, including Council 'recommended' projects in addition to the projects that are legislatively mandated, be included in both the interim and final Delta Plans. The Council should issue a report advocating that the recommended projects be implemented without delay.

The Council should also maintain an active interest in the progress and ultimate completion of those projects. Although the Council is not a responsible agency for many of the early action projects, CCWD believes that the Council can provide leadership to ensure that the implementing agencies stay on track by requiring regular reports on progress. The Council should also do whatever is in their power to support funding for the early action projects, including support for appropriate funding sources from relevant agencies. We have included an attachment outlining specific steps that the Council should take to ensure that early actions are implemented.

Please feel free to call me (925) 688-8100 or Maureen Martin at (925) 688-8323 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Greg Gartrell
Assistant General Manager

GG/MM:wec
Attachment

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cc: Delta Stewardship Council

Proposed Delta Stewardship Council Role in Early Action Projects by Others

8/9/2010

Contra Costa Water District

- **Identify priority near-term projects for the Delta that advance the coequal goals, including those important projects that are not legislatively mandated.**
 - The highest priority projects are Dutch Slough Restoration and Clifton Court Forebay Fish Screens. These projects provide substantial ecosystem benefits in the near term.
 - 32 additional projects are listed in Contra Costa Water District's letters to the Council 6/18/2010 and 7/30/2010
- **Use the bully pulpit to publicize the importance of fast-track implementation for these projects.**
 - Issue a Council report advocating the projects.
 - Issue press releases upon completion of major project milestones.
 - Promote the projects as appropriate in interactions with local, state, and federal agencies responsible for permitting or funding the projects.
- **Track the projects.**
 - Request responsible agencies to present timelines of identified projects with key milestones and schedules of activities.
 - Develop a conceptual framework identifying the type of information and updates most useful for tracking the projects (i.e., completion of milestones or reasons for delays, funding/spending status or constraints, how the specific project and tasks support the Council's charge, specific requests of the Council that are within their powers and jurisdiction). Use the tracking sheet that CCWD provided in its 6/18 letter to the Council or a similar tool.
 - Request responsible agencies to present project status bi-monthly or upon completion of major milestones, including steps required to achieve the current and next milestones or obstacles that are causing delay or interfering with milestone completion
 - Dedicate a portion of each Council meeting to reviewing project progress. The responsible agency should provide the Council with pertinent information prior to the meeting.
- **Assist with funding.**
 - Provide letters of support for funding requests as appropriate.